

But, this is not only a moral issue—it is also about improving health, reducing maternal mortality, slowing the spread of HIV/AIDS and reducing poverty.

Study after study has shown that when we do these things, we not only help create a safer world for women and children, but we also help improve the security of the United States.

It is true that there may be some very minor costs associated with this bill. However, they pale in comparison to our obligation to do what is right.

I want to thank my colleague from Minnesota BETTY MCCOLLUM and Senator DICK DURBIN from Illinois for leading this effort. Both of them have been indefatigable champions of the rights of women and children and we wouldn't be considering this bill today without them.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act.

HONORING GAIL NEAL

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Gail Neal upon her retirement as the Mariposa County Chief Probation Officer.

Ms. Neal began her career with Mariposa County as clerk II for the District Attorney's office in April 1978. In September 1981, she transferred to the Sheriff's Office, where she was a dispatcher and then a jail officer. In November 1987, Ms. Neal transferred back to the District Attorney's office, where she served as a Clerk III for a short time before being promoted to legal secretary. Ms. Neal began in Probation as a probation aide in May 1989. From there, she received a number of promotions: to Acting Deputy Probation Officer in September of 1990, Deputy Probation Officer in January of 1991, Deputy Probation Officer II in January of 1993, Deputy Probation Officer III in May of 1995, Deputy Chief Probation Officer in January of 2001, Interim Chief Probation Officer in March of 2001 and Chief Probation Officer two weeks later in March of 2001.

Ms. Neal has displayed outstanding leadership, organization and commitment in her time with Mariposa County Probation. Her duties included planning, organizing, directing, supervising and administering activities and operations of the County Probation Department and Juvenile Hall. She also developed and oversaw the Revenue & Recovery Division.

Besides her commitments to Mariposa County Probation, Ms. Neal served as a member of a number of groups, including of the Chief Probation Officers of California, California Probation, Parole and Corrections Association, American Probation and Parole Association, Mariposa County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, Mariposa County Alcohol & Drug Advisory Board, and was Chair on Mariposa County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council. In her free time, Ms. Neal also ran a side business as a candle maker.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gail Neal for her dedicated service to the people of Mariposa County. I invite my colleagues to join

me in wishing Ms. Neal many years of continued success.

RESTORE ONLINE SHOPPERS' CONFIDENCE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3386, the Restore Online Shoppers' Confidence Act, bipartisan legislation critical to protecting online consumers in Ohio and across the country.

Online shopping is becoming a common and critical part of our Nation's economy. The convenience of shopping and making purchases from home is an exciting revolution in commerce, and one that has broadened the opportunities and access available to American consumers.

As we saw on Cyber Monday, Americans are not hesitating to take advantage.

In particular, for people like my constituents who live in rural areas, online shopping offers an opportunity to avoid lengthy trips, saving both time and the cost of gas.

However, as the number of consumers taking advantage of these new opportunities continues to grow, I fear that the number of pitfalls for consumers is beginning to grow.

In particular, I am concerned about a growing new trend that is putting consumers on the defensive. Companies are using misleading Web sites and offers to sign up unsuspecting consumers for expensive subscription services. These companies are engaging in a new practice called post-transaction marketing, in which they purport to make special offers to consumers who have just completed a transaction.

Before they know it, consumers have unknowingly signed up for services, and their credit card information is on the way to the new company. Oftentimes, these same consumers don't even realize they have signed up for the service until they get their credit card statements.

This practice is egregious, and it is flat wrong.

We must act to bring it to a stop.

While I, like many of my moderate colleagues, fear the consequences of extending the reach of government too far into the economy, I also believe that there is a time when we, as legislators, have a mandate to act. This is one of those occasions.

Earlier this year, I introduced H.R. 5707, the Restore Online Shoppers' Confidence Act. This legislation would take initial steps toward ending what is clearly a deceptive and troubling practice.

Specifically, the legislation would require that companies engaging in post-transaction marketing clearly disclose the terms of any agreement proposed to consumers, ensuring that they have full knowledge of the services for which they are subscribing.

In addition, it would also require that these same companies provide easy ways to opt out of any agreement or subscription service, empowering consumers to control their enrollment.

Recently, the Senate passed companion legislation, S. 3386 by unanimous consent.

This bipartisan show of support indicates just how serious the problem is facing American consumers, as well as the common-sense nature of the legislation before us.

Now, the time has come for the House to act in kind.

We have before us a choice today—act on behalf of our constituents who every day use the internet for information and commerce.

Or, we can fail to act, and allow more American consumers to fall victim to a frightening practice that separates from them their hard-earned income.

I would be remiss if I didn't also raise a point that I have raised a number of times during my time in the House. The internet is an exciting and powerful tool. In particular, high-speed internet has brought a wealth of exciting new opportunities to American consumers.

However, not all consumers have access to this basic tool. Too many of my constituents do not have access to reliable and affordable broadband service, taking away their ability to participate in online shopping, distance learning, and all the basic services that many of us take for granted.

I hope that this body will continue to take seriously the plight of those individuals on the other side of the digital divide, and will rise to the occasion to address a major challenge facing rural America.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICES OF CAMP PATRIOT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Camp Patriot and their tremendous service to veterans in the Greater Seattle Area and throughout the country.

Camp Patriot was founded in 2006 to help provide the 2.3 million disabled U.S. veterans with the opportunity to take outdoor trips. The nonprofit group organizes fishing, hunting, skiing, hiking, and motorcycling trips for our brave veterans. Camp Patriot enables disabled veterans the chance to develop relationships with other fellow veterans through outdoor adventures and team building exercises. The program works with outdoor organizations and financial sponsors that provide equipment, supplies, and clothing, and allow veterans to attend the camp free of cost.

Camp Patriot is a relatively new organization yet has done much in their outreach to veterans and their families. One major goal they are currently working toward is the construction of a lodge on Lake Koocanusa in Montana, which would accommodate 20 disabled veterans a week at no charge to the veterans.

Among Camp Patriot's major activities is the annual hike to the summit of Mount Rainier. The inaugural climb took place in July 2007. Most recently, the Camp Patriot team reached the 14,411-foot summit on July 14, 2010. Each year, before the climb, participants travel to Seattle to dine at Qwest Field and tour the stadium with the Seattle Seahawks. Participants also attend a week-long training sponsored by Iron90 Workplace Wellness. Iron90 prepares the veterans for the grueling hike up